

Recognizing Cause and Effect

Directions: Read the boxed passage. Then use it to answer the questions that follow.

“An army moves on its stomach,” Napoleon once said. During World War II, America’s leaders must have agreed with the French emperor. For much of the food produced in the United States went to soldiers overseas. At home, food was in short supply.

To fill the gap, Americans planted more than 20 million Victory Gardens. These small gardens took root in suburban backyards, empty city lots, and factory parking lots. In all, they supplied 40% of the country’s vegetables.

Americans planted Victory Gardens because they needed food. However, they also felt it was their patriotic duty. This was something everyone could do to help win the war.

Many factors led to the success of Victory Gardens. The government printed millions of free booklets with gardening instructions. Magazines showed movie stars at work in their Victory Gardens. Local Harvest Fairs honored the top gardeners in each community.

Americans took pride in raising their own food. Working together and sharing produce helped families and neighbors grow closer. Once the war ended, however, most Victory Gardens were quickly abandoned.

1. Why was food in short supply in the U.S. during World War II?

2. What were the two main causes for Americans planting Victory Gardens?

3. What are three factors that led to the success of Victory Gardens?

4. Most Victory Gardens were abandoned after the war. What can you infer caused this development?
